

# Forests for People

## - More Than You Can Imagine

You might ask, "What's a tree got to do with me?" The answer is: a lot. In fact, we rely on trees every day, from the paper we write on, to the buildings we live and work in, to the food we eat. No matter where you live, you can find something that can be traced back to a tree.

It's often easy to take trees and forests for granted. But not only do trees sustain life, they also provide a multitude of environmental benefits. Trees serve as habitat for birds and animals, prevent soil erosion and help keep our air and water clean.

Forests have multiple and diverse uses. For instance, one section of a forest could be managed for lumber and other building materials, while others could be used pulpwood or for recreational purposes, such as fishing or camping. Our state and national forests belong to the public, and may be used to meet a diversity of needs.

**Forests are for people: take time to enjoy a forest near you.**

### Become Involved in Urban and Community Forestry

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) is the lead federal agency, through their Urban and Community Forestry Program. USFS and state forestry agencies, in partnership with national and local organizations, provide a comprehensive approach to the stewardship of urban trees and forest resources. This approach helps ensure the vitality of communities by engaging people where they live, work, and play. The Program provides financial and technical assistance to plan, protect, establish and manage trees, forests and related resources.

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is another advisory body at the federal level. The 1990 Farm Bill authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to charter the Council, to represent a broad range of public and private urban forestry interests. Their role is to advise the Secretary on urban forestry program issues, resource allocation priorities, and to challenge cost-share program recommendations. Districts can become familiar with NUCFAC and help bring challenge grants to their communities for local projects.

Closer to home, and more accessible to conservation districts, are the state agency and advisory committees. The State Forester's office provides leadership for forest resource management, including urban and community forestry. Most offices have an Urban Forestry Coordinator, who can provide information on current activities around the state, as well as federal and state resources. The state agency is advised by the State Urban Forestry Council, composed of agency and organization representatives. Districts, through their State Association, can establish relationships with the State Forester and Urban Forestry Coordinator; seek a seat on the advisory committee and support efforts to obtain adequate state resources for urban forestry.

At the county and city level, there are a variety of entities involved. Some counties and cities have established programs through planning or resource departments, while others work through active volunteer organizations. Member groups of the Alliance for Community Trees sponsor awareness programs, tree plantings and more. Districts can learn about local efforts through their State Foresters, county commissions and city councils.



## FORESTRY FACTS

- Trees are a renewable resource – forests can be renewed by natural regeneration or by planting trees to replace the ones we use.
- Each of us uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products each year. (EPA,2008).
- Trees provide clean air, water, healthy soil, beauty and many things we need for daily living.
- According to the National Association of State Foresters, **private forestlands make up 59 percent of total U.S. forestland; state and local governments, 10 percent; and federal forestlands, 31 percent.** Almost seven of every 10 acres of U.S. forestland are in non-federal ownership.
- **State forestry agencies manage 49 million acres of U.S. forestland**, one-third more acreage than is managed by industry. In addition to managing state-owned forest land, state foresters support and promote sound forestry-management practices on all non-federal lands.
- **On average, state forestry agencies spend 79 percent of their budgets for services on private and local government-owned forestland and other wildland areas in their states.** Almost four out of every five dollars spent by state forestry agencies are for services on non-state owned lands.
- **State forestry agencies provided technical assistance to 182,479 forest landowners in 2008**, an increase of 16,105, or 10 percent, since 2004. State forestry agencies are the primary source of forest management advice for family forest-owners.
- **Program expenditures for Landowner Assistance, Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Legacy, Forest Recreation and Forest Health programs** have increased by \$100 million, or 44 percent, in the past 10 years.



## Forestry Terms:

**Deciduous** – A perennial plant (tree or shrub) which is normally leafless during a part (winter) of the year

**Conifer** – A tree or shrub that is usually an evergreen that has needle or scale-like leaves and produces its seeds in a cone.

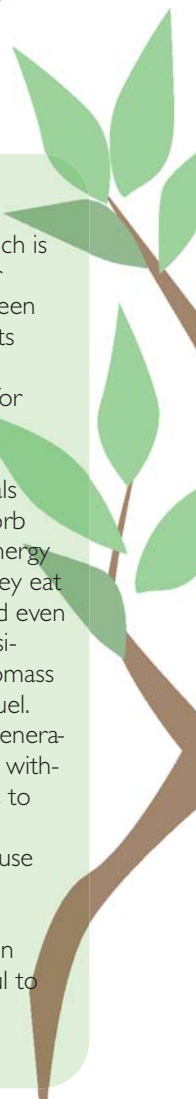
**Sustainable Forestry** – When trees are harvested for human use, new trees are planted or allowed to re-grow naturally.

**Biomass** – Organic material from plants and animals containing stored energy from the sun. Plants absorb energy from the sun during photosynthesis. The energy is then passed on to humans and animals when they eat the plants. Biomass from wood, crops, manure and even some garbage can be used to heat homes and businesses or make steam for producing electricity. Biomass can even be converted into ethanol or biodiesel fuel.

**Sustainable Development** – The ability of present generations to meet economic and environmental needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Photosynthesis** – The process where green plants use sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to make food (carbohydrate) and oxygen.

**Invasive Species** – Animals or plants that have been introduced into a new habitat and became harmful to humans, plants, animals or other natural resources within an ecosystem.



## Hoosier Heartland RC&D Promotes *Plant A Million*

Planting a million trees takes a big community effort, and that's exactly what 10 Central Indiana Conservation Districts have set out to do. The effort is part of the "Plant A Million" (PAM) campaign in partnership with Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council (HHRC&D).

Through PAM, HHRC&D and the counties of Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan and Shelby are working not only to plant a million or more (mostly native) trees, but also to educate the citizens of Central Indiana about the importance of trees and how to properly care for and manage them.

The education component is particularly important, given the current situation in the region. Half of Central Indiana's cities and towns have tree canopy coverage of well under 32 percent--some even as low as 20 percent--while the recommended cover rate for livable, sustainable communities is at least 40 percent.

Trees provide tell-tale indicators of a community's health. With rich, permeable soil and an abundant tree canopy cover come important ecosystem benefits, such as reduced storm water runoff, improved air and water quality, storage and removal of atmospheric carbon and reduced energy consumption,

In order to continue as one of the nation's largest suppliers of hardwood lumber, Indiana will need to take on major Reforestation efforts in many of its counties. For more about Plant A Million, visit [www.plantamillion.org](http://www.plantamillion.org).

## Envirothon Teaches Students about Forests

Each year, more than 500,000 teenagers participate in the North American Canon Envirothon Competition. This year-long learning process combines in-class studies with hands-on field experience in forestry and other natural resource issues.

Through the competition, students learn important lessons, including tree identification; wildlife habitat; forest species, age and structure; food; and riparian zones. They also gain an understanding of basic management practices, including the use of various silvicultural practices and tree measuring devices.

Conservation districts and state associations continue to sponsor and support local and state teams. This year's winning team in the forestry category was from Pennsylvania. Learn more about the Envirothon at [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org).

## Forest Diversity Plays a Role in North Carolina Watershed

The Waynesville watershed is one of the largest tracts of undeveloped, non-federal forestland remaining in Western North Carolina. With 7,300 of the watershed's 8,600 acres designated as a working forest conservation easement, it took the collaboration of a variety of potential easement holders, town officials and conservation groups—including the Haywood County SWCD—to develop a workable set of forest management guidelines.

The stakeholders carefully developed easement terms to "create and maintain a vigorous, healthy, and diverse forest that will ensure the production of high quality drinking water from the Waynesville watershed land area." They positioned 690 acres of the watershed property into a "forever-wild" conservation easement and entered into an agreement with the Western Carolina University to develop a forest stewardship plan for the entire property. For more information about these efforts, visit:

[www.townofwaynesville.org](http://www.townofwaynesville.org) or the Haywood County SWCD in Waynesville, NC at [www.haywoodnc.net](http://www.haywoodnc.net).



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## Forestry Resources

### NACD Forestry Notes

<http://www.nacdnet.org/news/publications/forestrynotes>

NACD's monthly publication, Forestry Notes, highlights forestry issues of importance to districts and showcases district-related forestry projects and success stories. The publication is funded through a cooperative agreement between NACD and the U.S. Forest Service. NACD encourages districts to submit story ideas at: [forestrynotes@email.nacdnet.org](mailto:forestrynotes@email.nacdnet.org)

### Find A Forest by State

[www.fs.fed.us/recreation/map/state\\_list.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/map/state_list.shtml)

Find a forest in your state by visiting USDA's Forest Service website.

### i-Tree

[www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org)

i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service providing urban-forestry analysis and benefits-assessment tools. i-Tree tools help communities of all sizes strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of community trees and the environmental services they provide.

### Tree Benefits calculator

[www.treebenefits.com/calculator](http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator)

The Tree Benefit Calculator helps estimate the benefits provided by individual street-side trees. With inputs of location, species and tree size, users will gain an understanding of the environmental and economic value provided by trees each year.

### What's it like where you live?

[www.mbgnet.net](http://www.mbgnet.net)

Experience the Biomes of the World from the Missouri Botanical Garden.

### USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry

[www.fs.fed.us/ucf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf)

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) is a cooperative program of the U.S. Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources.

### American Forests

[www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

American Forests is a world leader in planting trees for environmental restoration, a pioneer in the science and practice of urban forestry, and a primary communicator of the benefits of trees and forests. It is a powerful GIS application for land use planning and policymaking.

### Forest Service Center for Urban Forests Research

[www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/research](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/research)

The research performed at this center at the University of California, Davis, quantifies the net benefits of municipal forests. The research demonstrates the value of trees in energy production, water quality and other areas.

### Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

Through mass-media communications, providing low-cost trees for planting and producing high-quality, easy-to-use educational materials, the Arbor Day Foundation works to make tree planting and care something in which nearly everyone can be involved.

## Curriculum

### Project Learning Tree

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for teachers and students in Pre-K through twelfth grade. The success of the program is built upon the strategy of teaching students to learn "how"—not "what"—to think about the environment.

### Finding my Forest

[www.findingmyforest.org/resources.html](http://www.findingmyforest.org/resources.html)

The "Finding my Forest" curriculum may be used by both outdoor educators and classroom teachers of grades three-eight. This USDA Forest Service program focuses on environmental science.

### 4-H Virtual Forest

[www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest)

The "4-H Virtual" Forest provides youth with an interactive online learning experience in forest management. Located on this page are users guides, activity sheets and other resources, including links for each module.

### 4-H Forestry projects

[www.4-h.org/](http://www.4-h.org/)

Find your local 4-H chapter and learn more about forestry projects.

### NACD's "Forests for People" Educational Materials

[www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/](http://www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/)

NACD offers conservation education materials for students in kindergarten on up. Resources include booklets, PowerPoint presentations, bookmarks, educator's guides and more.

### Canon Envirothon

[www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)

Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Forestry resources for in-class studies and hands-on field experience are available online.

**Note:** Share this forestry education feature story with your local schools, garden clubs, service organizations and others by downloading the PDF file at [www.nacdnet.org/news/publications/resource](http://www.nacdnet.org/news/publications/resource) or linking it to your district's website.



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